

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-15, 17-20, and 22 are now pending in the application. Claims 6, 8, 16, and 21 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woods et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,058,834 B2) in view of Stapleton et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,574,577 B2). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, Woods, either singly or in combination with any of the other cited prior art references, fails to at least show, teach, or suggest **providing a power feedback signal from an internal portion of the IC to the power supply regulator**.

It is a longstanding rule that to establish a prima facie case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 180 USPQ 143 (CCPA 1974), see MPEP §2143.03. Furthermore, when evaluating claims for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, all of the limitations must be considered and given weight. *Ex parte Grasselli*, 231 USPQ 393 (Bd. App. 1983), MPEP § 2144.03. Here, the alleged combination fails to disclose the limitation of **providing a power feedback signal from an internal portion of the IC to the power supply regulator**.

Please note that Applicant amended claim 1 to include subject matter from claim 6. With respect to claim 6, the Examiner acknowledges that Woods and Stapleton fail to disclose this limitation and instead relies on Borkar (U.S. Pat. No. 6,484,265) to disclose feedback signals 126 and 122. Applicant respectfully notes that the feedback signal 126 is not **from an internal portion of an IC** (e.g. processor 114) as claim 1 now recites and is instead from an external current detector 128. Applicant further notes that the feedback signal 122 is a temperature feedback signal. As such, the feedback signal 122 is not a **power** feedback signal as claim 1 recites.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Borkar fails to disclose that either of the feedback signals 122 and 126 teaches or suggests **providing a power feedback signal from the internal portion of the IC to the power supply regulator** as claim 1 recites. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as well as its dependent claims, should be allowable for at least the above reasons.

Claims 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stapleton et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,574,577 B2) in view of Heimbigner (U.S. Pat. No. 4,363,978). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 7, Stapleton fails to at least show, teach, or suggest **de-asserting a drive pin coupled to a gate of a MOS power transistor to force the high impedance state**.

The Examiner alleges that Stapleton discloses this structure at Column 2, Lines 38-67, and Column 3, Lines 18-31. The first cited portion of Stapleton, in reference to FIG. 1, states that a PWR_GOOD signal is de-asserted "to indicate an invalid VTT voltage and cause the voltage regulator 14 to tri-state its output terminal." Applicant

respectfully notes that claim 7 recites, specifically, that **a drive pin coupled to a power transistor is de-asserted**, and the above cited portion does not disclose de-asserting a drive pin of any transistor whatsoever. Indeed, FIG. 1 does not even include a transistor, and the noted PWR_GOOD signal is only generally illustrated as an input to the voltage regulator 14. Applicant respectfully submits that it is improper for the Examiner to allege that a drive pin coupled to a gate of a transistor is de-asserted when the relied upon structure appears to absent of any teaching or suggestion of a transistor.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7, as well as its dependent claims, should be allowable for at least the above reasons.

Claims 11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris, II et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,867,719) in view of Woods (U.S. Pat. No. 7,058,834 B2). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 11, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application and without conceding the issue of patentability, Applicant amended the claim to include the allowable subject matter from claim 16. As such, claim 11, as well as its dependent claims, should now be in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 18-20 and 22 are allowed. The Examiner states that claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowable subject matter. Accordingly, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application and without conceding the issue of patentability, Applicant has amended

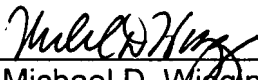
claim 11 to include the limitations of claim 16. Therefore, claim 11, as well as its dependent claims, should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Michael D. Wiggins
Reg. No. 34,754

Damian M. Aquino
Reg. No. 54,964

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MDW/DMA/dms